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Message Text

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64
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /120 W
---------- 045327
R 261958Z FEB 74
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 625
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 026

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT U.K. (N.I.)
SUBJECT: ELECTION IN NI - PROSPECTS IN EACH CONSTITUENCY

SUMMARY: BELFAST BOOKMAKERS ARE GIVING ODDS THAT SIX OR SEVEN ANTI-SUNNINGDALE LOYALISTS, THREE PRO-ASSEMBLY (FAULKNERITE) UNIONISTS, TWO SDLP AND POSSIBLY ONE ANTI-EXECUTIVE REPUBLICAN WILL WIN ULSTER'S 12 WESTMINSTER SEATS IN GENERAL ELECTION. HOWEVER FEW OF THESE PREDICTED WINNERS HAVE GROUNDS FOR FIRM CONFIDENCE ABOUT THEIR PROSPECTS. END SUMMARY.

THERE FOLLOWS BRIEF PRE-ELECTION REPORT ON EACH OF 12 WESTMINSTER "IMPERIAL" CONSTITUENCIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND. NUMBERS ARE ODDS BEING GIVEN BY BELFAST BOOKMAKERS AS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY 26 NEWSLETTER. FIRST NUMBER IS AMOUNT TO BE WON AND SECOND IS AMOUNT AT RISK.

FOLLOWING SYMBOLS APPLY: UUU - UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST
12 CANDIDATES ENDORSED BY (ANTI-SUNNINGDALE) UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COUNCIL.
UICA - UNIONIST IMPERIAL CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION
FIVE OFFICIAL UNIONIST AND FIVE PRO-ASSEMBLY UNIONIST CANDIDATES NOMINATED ACCORDING TO RULES OF NATIONAL UNION
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OF CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST ASSOCIATIONS BY LOCAL WESTMINSTER

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OR "IMPERIAL" CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS.
OU - SEVEN OFFICIAL UNIONIST CANDIDATES AGREEING WITH ANTI-SUNNINGDALE VIEW OF ULSTER UNIONIST PARTY LEADER HARRY WEST AND ENDORSED BY UUUC.
PAU - SEVEN PRO-ASSEMBLY UNIONIST CANDIDATES AGREEING WITH PRO-SUNNINGDALE VIEWS OF NI CHIEF EXECUTIVE BRIAN FAULKNER.
VU - THREE CANDIDATES NOMINATED BY VANGUARD UNIONIST PROGRESSIVE PARTY AND ENDORSED BY UUUC.
ALLIANCE - THREE CANDIDATES NOMINATED BY ALLIANCE PARTY.
NI LAB - FOUR CANDIDATES NOMINATED BY NORTHERN IRELAND LABOUR PARTY.
SDLP - 12 CANDIDATES NOMINATED BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY.
REP C - FOUR CANDIDATES NOMINATED BY (OFFICIAL SINN FEIN ORIENTED) REPUBLICAN CLUBS.
UNITY - TWO CANDIDATES NOMINATED LOCALLY BY CONVENTION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS LOCAL CATHOLIC/NATIONALIST/ REPUBLICAN GROUPS (NOT INCLUDING SDLP) AND ORIENTED TOWARD VIEWS OF PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN.

1. ANTRIM NORTH
IAN PAISLEY INCUMBENT DU/UUU 9-20
TE UTLEY UICA/PAU 19-10
MARY MCALLISTER SDLP 50-1

2. ANTRIM SOUTH
JAMES MOLYNEAUX INRPXBENT UICA/OU (UUU) 1-9
ROBERT KIDD INDEPENDENT NI LAB 10-1
CHARLES KINAHAN ALLIANCE 20-1
PADDY ROWAN SDLP 33-1

3. BELFAST NORTH
DAVID SMYTH UICA/PAU 11-20
JOHN CARSON OU/UUU 5-2
SCOTT NI LAB 6-1
DONNELLY SDLP 18-1
COMMENT: SMYTH WAS EASILY NOMINATED BY UICA WHILE CARSON WAS PUT FORWARD BY DISSIDENT OFFICIAL UNIONISTS.

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STANLEY MCMASTER INCUMBENT UICA/PAU 6-4
WILLIAM CRAIG VU/UUU 2-1
DAVID BLEAKLEY NI LAB 2-1
DES GILLESPIE SDLP 25-1
COMMENT: THIS IS A MODERATE CONSTITUENCY IN WHICH CRAIG CAN WIN ONLY IF MODERATE VOTE IS WIDELY SPLIT.

5. BELFAST SOUTH

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RAFTON POUNDER INCUMBENT UICA/PA 1-5
ERSKIN HOLMES NI LAB 10-1
DAVID COOK ALLIANCE 12-1
BEN CARAHER SDLP 14-1
REV ROBERT BRADFORD VU/UUU 25-1

6. BELFAST WEST
GERRY FITT INCUMBENT SDLP 2-5
JOHN MCQUADE DU/UUU 3-1
BILLY BOQD NI LAB 12-1
JACK BRADY REP C 1,000-1
ALBERT PRICE INDEPENDENT (REPUBLICAN) 1,000-1
COMMENT: FITT IS IN DANGER OF LOSING IF REPUBLICANS SPLIT
HIS (CATHOLIC) VOTE TOO MUCH.

7. DOWN NORTH
JAMES KILFEDDER INCUMBENT OU/UUU 4-5
ROY BRADFORD UICA/PAU 1-1
DERMOT CURRAN SDLP 200-1
COMMENT: BRADFORD NEEDS ALL THE UNIONIST ALLIANCE AND
NI LABOUR VOTES HE CAN GET.

8. DOWN SOUTH
CPT LPS (CWILLIE) ORR INCUMBENT OU/UUU 1-10
SEAN HOLLYWOOD SDLP 8-1
HUGH GOLDING REP C 66-1
COMMENT: HOLLYWOOD MAY HAVE A GOOD CHANCE IF HIS STRONG
ANTI-INTERNMENT STAND AND CATHOLIC FRONT RUNNING POSITION
PREVENTS EXCESSIVE DEFECTIONS TO GOLDING WHILE BRIAN FAULKNER'S
CALL FOR ABSTENTION CUTS INTO ORS'S TRADITIONAL UNIONIST SUPPORT.

9. ARMAGH
HAROLD MCCUSKER OUICA/OU/UUU 1-8
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PADDY OHANLON SDLP 10-1
ROBIN GLENDINNING ALLIANCE 12-1
HUGH LEWIS UNITY 20-1
TOM MOORE REP C 500-1
COMMENT: IN THIS POLARIZED CONSTITUENCY WITH A UNIONIST
MAJORITY MCCUSKER HAS NO REAL RIVAL FOR LOYALIST UNIONIST VOTE.

10. FERMANAGH SOUTH TYRONE
FRANK MCMANUS INCUMBENT UNITY 6-5
HARRY WEST UICA/OU/UUU 6-5
HUBERT BROWN PAU 7-1
DENIS HAUGHEY SDLP 7-1
COMMENT: CONSTITUENCY IS POLARIZED AND ALMOST EVENLY BALANCED
BETWEEN UNIONIST AND REPUBLICAN TRADITIONS.
SEAT WILL GO TO MOST UNITED TRADITION.

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11. MIDULSTER
IVAN COOPER SDLP 7-5
BERNADETTE DEVLIN MCALISKEY INCUMBENT INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST
(SUPPORTED BY REP C) 8-5
JOHN DUNLOP VU/UUU 7-2
NEVILLE THORNTON PAU 7-1
COMMENT: POLARIZED WITH A CATHOLIC MAJORITY OF SEVERAL THOUSAND
THIS CONSTITUENCY IS EXTREMELY HARD TO PREDICT AND COULD GO TO
DUNLOP IF MCALISKEY AND COOPER ARE EVENLY BALANCED.

12. LONDONDERRY
WILLIAM ROSS UICA/OU/UUU 1-5
HUGH LOGUE SDLP 4-1
JACK FOSTER LABOUR AND TRADE UNION 66-1
MICKEY MONTGOMERY REP C 66-1
COMMENT: POLARIZED AND EVENLY BALANCED CONSTITUENCY SHOULD GO
TO ROSS BECAUSE HE HAS NO SERIOUS UNIONIST RIVAL.PENBERTHY

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740210/aaaaaiqp.tel
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
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Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
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Subject: ELECTION IN NI - PROSPECTS IN EACH CONSTITUENCY SUMMARY: BELFAST BOOKMAKERS ARE GIVING ODDS THAT SIX OR SEVEN
TAGS: PINT, UK, (NI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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